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## The Republican Record

**I**N his acceptance speech President Wilson had the assurance to give his version of why the Republican party was ousted from power, in the cheekiest paragraph of his speech.

But it naturally awakens the thought of why the Republican party ever arose to power and what its record has been. It is the successor of the old Whig party. It has controlled the government since '61 with the exception of the last term of Mr. Cleveland and the present term of Mr. Wilson. What have been some of the triumphs in the interests of the people? We leave out all reference to the Civil war, for that was sectional, except to say that it steadied the country through that might upheaval to a port of safety and peace.

But it brought in the free school system. It established the homestead law for the men who changed the frontier to an empire of enlightenment and progress.

It caused the building of the first transcontinental railroads.

It was the parent of the eight-hour day for company labor.

It exacted the first laws to govern child labor in great industrial concerns. It established the protective tariff to encourage skilled labor; to make places for millions of employees; to supply a market at home for home products, and to keep in our midst the money from our mines and trade balances. It established governmental bureaus for commerce and agriculture, and caused the founding of agricultural colleges in the several states. It extended great help to secure the utilizing of the waters in the arid regions of the republic for irrigation and for the supplying of power to needed industrial plants.

It tried to establish a most needed merchant marine but was always baffled by the solid vote of the opposition and a few votes in its own party by men who never should have had transportation to Washington. It compelled justice to our country from all foreign powers.

Under its rule the republic was transformed and fifteen new states were rounded into form. It obtained and developed the empire of Alaska, and has so changed the status of the nation that from being so poor and weak that its credit was rated the same as that of Spain and Turkey, it became in fifty years a world power in the very forefront of the nation.

And it is fair to say that almost every measure that it established was not through the help but against the bitter opposition of the party now in power.

It was able to receive and assimilate twenty millions of foreigners and was able to do this by finding for the comers profitable places in which to work.

And save in passing some financial legislation, most of which was already outlined by their predecessors, what has been the part the party which Mr. Wilson leads, has played? The one thing which Mr. Wilson claims as one of the most conspicuous of its achievements is the revision of the tariff. Was that a new inspiration of the party in power? Or was it not in fact the exhuming from the grave of the dead con-

federacy the plank in its constitution, which was to have made the confederacy, had it succeeded, more free trade than is England today?

When President Wilson claims that his party now embodies the patriotism, the intelligence and the spirit of progress of the nation, he trenches on dangerous grounds.

If it was a poker game people would say he was bluffing on two ducats and that he must be shaking in his boots, lest he be called.

## So Abject A Surrender

**I**N 1909 Professor Woodrow Wilson addressed the graduating class of Princeton university and in the course of his speech said:

You knew what the usual standard of the employee is in our day. It is to give as little as he may for his wages. Labor is standardized by the trade union and this is the standard to which it is made to conform. No one is suffered to do more than the average workman can do; in some trades and handicrafts no one is suffered to do more than the least skillful of his fellows can do within the hours allotted to a day's labor, and no one may work out of hours at all or volunteer anything beyond the minimum.

I need not point out how economically disastrous such a regulation of labor is. It is so unprofitable to the employer that in some trades it will presently not be worth his while to attempt anything at all. He had better stop altogether than operate at an inevitable and invariable loss.

The labor of America is rapidly becoming unprofitable under its present regulation by those who have determined to reduce it to a minimum.

Our economic supremacy may be lost because the country grows more and more full of unprofitable servants.

Two weeks ago Professor Wilson had become president of the United States and a candidate for re-election. In a more formal statement than the one above he gave his views publicly in the following:

"It seemed to me, in considering the subject matter of the controversy, that the whole spirit of the time and the preponderant evidence of recent economic experience spoke for the eight-hour day. It has been adjudged by the thought and experience of recent years a thing upon which society is justified in insisting as in the interest of health, efficiency, contentment, and a general increase of economic vigor."

Moreover, his statement was made as a justification for making an abject surrender to the demand of four men representing some labor unions, and coupled with the demand was a threat that if the demand was not complied with within five days they would give the order which would paralyze the transportation systems of the United States, bring great losses to the business men and great distress to the poor of all the millions who make it possible for railroads to run their trains and to pay their employees better wages than are paid for the same work anywhere else the world around, and better wages than the same men could obtain in any other field of labor in any country, including our own, on earth.

What has changed the opinion of our president in seven years? And had he kept the pledge made in the platform on which he was elected, and refused to be a candidate this year would he have made the statement of two weeks ago, and then have driven the measure of his surrender through congress, or would he have taken the ground that Mr. Hughes takes when he declares that he would

never surrender to such a demand, but would "go down to defeat rather than yield one jot or title of the principle of investigation in advance of legislation?"

The matter has now assumed a form which makes it a direct test of the manhood and womanhood of the United States, for if our government can be made to surrender abjectly to the demands of any organization within and under it, we are not three degrees removed from anarchy and Mexican lawlessness.

Voters will bear in mind that this has become the supreme question of the campaign.

So vital is it that some of the strongest men in congress of Mr. Wilson's own party recoiled before it and refused to vote for Mr. Wilson's surrender.

No wonder Mr. Gompers is wearing out his leather lungs because of the joy of his leather brains that a section of organized labor, through its vicious representatives, have frightened or cajoled the president of the United States not only to make an abject surrender to its demand, but have further compelled him to drive their demand through congress.

The Great Republic was never before so humiliated.

## The Result In Maine

**A**S was expected generally, we think, Maine has gone Republican. With a little change the old saying may be repeated, "Maine went hell-bent for Blaine."

It will have some effect on the national vote in November, but Maine is no longer a pivotal state, indeed it has not been since 1880. In that year Maine revised itself. In that year the cry: "Maine went hell-bent for Blaine," had ceased. The plumed knight came down from there discomfited and demoralized. The stalwarts had refused to vote and thus gave the victory to the opposition.

When the Republican national convention met that year, the stalwarts led by Roscoe Conkling were for U. S. Grant. The opposition in the convention tried by cat-calls and hisses to prevent Conkling from making the nominating speech for Grant, but he beat them down by the sheer force of his masterful intellect, pluck and skill as a platform orator.

Garfield was there ostensibly to support John Sherman and to make the nominating speech for him. He made the speech, a magnificent one, but on the first ballot there was one vote for James A. Garfield. It was the same way on the second and third ballots. Then inquiries were made and it was found that the vote was that of a Campbellite preacher from Pennsylvania. When a stalwart whom we all knew heard that he exclaimed: "We are gone. Garfield will be nominated." And he was. Blaine was his warm personal friend. John Sherman was never more his warm friend.

Much ill-feeling was engendered in the convention and Conkling and his friends went home in a most savage mood. This ill-feeling was in the air of all northern states, and Maine went Democratic despite the utmost efforts of the party